

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04791 020637Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 /018 W

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R 020327Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4789

UNCLAS HONG KONG 4791

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BFOL, HK

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: UPDATE ON MASS TRANSIT

REF: (A) STATE 062550; (B) HK 3036 (FY '75 CCP PROGRAM REPORT,
ANNEX D); (C) HK 552.

1. AS REPORTED IN REF. (C), HKG STILL INTENDS TO GO AHEAD WITH
A MODIFIED 10-MILE LONG MASS TRANSIT BY 1980. THIS S-SHAPED
MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM WILL COST US\$1,160 MILLION.

2. CONGEN HAS LEARNED FROM BOARD CHAIRMAN OF ONE OF LARGEST
HK CONSTRUCTION FIRMS THAT COMPUTER STUDY BY CONSULTING FIRM
SHOWS FARE STRUCTURE, WHICH IS ALREADY COMMITTED BY HKG, WILL
YIELD INSUFFICIENT REVENUE TO COVER FINANCING WHEN APPLIED TO
SHORTENED TRANSIT LINES. FURTHERMORE, RANDOM SURVEY OF 183
RESIDENTS BY MAJOR LOCAL PAPER INDICATES PUBLIC ATTACHES LOW
PRIORITY TO PROJECT. DEBATE ON MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORP.
BILL IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AROUSED STRONG OPPOSITION. SERIOUS
DOUBTS RAISED REGARDING NEED FOR UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND ABILITY
OF HK COMMUNITY TO FINANCE MASSIVE CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS.
FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, STRONG OPPOSITION SEEMS TO HAVE HAD
LITTLE EFFECT ON MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY'S
PLANS.

3. SINCE HK SUBWAY PROJECT IS BROKEN UP INTO SMALL SEGMENTS,
MANY DEADLINES WERE SET FOR SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION
TENDERS. NEXT DEADLINE IS JUNE 1ST, 1975, WHICH IS FOR
TUNNELLING AND STATION CONSTRUCTION AT SOUTHERN END OF NATHAN
ROAD AND IN CENTRAL DISTRICT, AND TUBE CONSTRUCTION UNDER
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HARBOR TO EAST OF HMS TAMAR. SOME CONTRACTS MAY BE AWARDED

WITHIN NEXT SIX MONTHS.
CROSS

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Disposition Event:
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